

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NEAE-00 SP-02 INR-05
INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSAE-00
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O 080152Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8197
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 4356

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AF, CENTO, PK, UR
SUBJ: DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER KHALATBARY

1. FOREIGN

MINISTER KHALATBARY ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS OFFICE
AFTERNOON MAY 8 TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID
HE HAD COMPLETED DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTANI FOREIGN ADVISER
AGHA SHAHI AND WISHED TO CONVEY GIST OF THEIR JOINT CONCERN
TO WASHINGTON.

2. IN DOING SO, HE HARKED BACK TO CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING
IN LONDON LAST MONTH AND TO COMPLIMENTARY STATEMENTS WHICH HE AND
AGHA SHAHI TAD MADE ON THAT OCCASION. HE SAID THAT NEED FOR
CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE IN LIGHT OF CURRENT AFGHANISTAN DEVELOP-
MENTS HAD BECOME MORE ACUTE. IRAN AND PAKISTAN NEEDED TO
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KNOW U.S. AND U.K. VIEWS CONCERNING SITUATION NOW FACING
THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. (I ASSUME KHALATBARY ALSO HAS CON-
VOKED BRITISH AMBASSADOR, BUT HAVE NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO
CHECK THIS POINT).

3. IRAN AND PAKISTAN BELIEVE THAT, IF SOVIETS FEEL THEY CAN
MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT RESISTANCE, THEY WILL PUSH RAPIDLY TO

EXPLOIT POSSIBILITIES FOR SUBVERSION IN BALUCHISTAN AND PASH-TOONISTAN. ACCORDING TO KHALATBARY, AGHA SHAHI FEELS THAT BALUCHIS ARE THE MORE VULNERABLE OF THE TWO AND THE FIRST LIKELY SOVIET TARGET. THEY FEEL THAT "IF WE ARE MERELY TO BE SPECTATORS OF THESE EVENTS", SOVIETS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO ACT.

4. ACCORDINGLY, KHALATBARY ASKED IF I COULD OBTAIN A STATEMENT FROM WASHINGTON GIVING (A) U.S. VIEW OF SITUATION RESULTING FROM EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, (B) U.S. ESTIMATE OF CURRENT SOVIET INTENTIONS, (C) WHAT ACTIONS MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO PREVENT FURTHER SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF SITUATION, AND (D) WHAT ACTIONS U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT, BOTH IN PAKISTAN AND IN AFGHANISTAN.

5. I GAVE KHALATBARY A BRIEF SUMMARY OF AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH THE NEW REGIME IN KABUL. I ASKED WHETHER IRANIANS FELT NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY IN CONTROL AND WHETHER THEY EXPECTED ANY RESISTANCE. KHALATBARY SAID HE SAW NO SIGNS OF RESISTANCE AND DOUBTED ANY COULD BE EFFECTIVE.

6. I THEN SAID THAT WE INTENDED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, TO CONTINUE ALL OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN IN ORDER TO TEST WHAT THE NEW REGIME'S REACTION WILL BE TO THEM. IT WAS, OF COURSE, TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY JUDGEMENTS ON THIS SCORE.

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7. AS FAR AS ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED, I POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT WE COULD DO NOTHING, EITHER IN THE MILITARY OR ECONOMIC FIELDS, IF THE PAKISTANI INSIST UPON ACQUIRING THEIR REPROCESSING PLANT. I SUGGESTED IRAN MAKE THIS POINT CLEARLY AND BLUNTLY TO THEIR PAKISTANI FRIENDS. KHALATBARY SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

8. KHALATBARY LEAVES WITH THE SHAH ON FRIDAY, MAY 12, FOR VISITS TO BULGARIA AND HUNGARY. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH IF WE COULD GET HIM SOME REPLY ABOUT OUR VIEWS BEFORE THEY MAKE THESE EASTERN EUROPEAN VISITS WHERE THEY FEEL THEIR STATEMENTS WILL BE VERY CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE SOVIETS. I SAID I WOULD TRY, BUT FELT WASHINGTON WAS STILL TRYING TO DIGEST WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND MIGHT NOT HAVE WELL-CONSIDERED VIEWS AT THIS EARLY DATE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND ME SOME VIEWS, HOWEVER PRELIMINARY, BY OPENING OF BUSINESS THURSDAY, MAY 11. IN VIEW OF CENTO CONTEXT, IT MAY BE NECESSARY COORDINATE THESE WITH U.K. ANY COMFORTING THOUGHT THAT CAN BE IMPARTED TO

THE SHAH BEFORE HIS BALKAN TRIP WILL BE HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING
HIM TO MAINTAIN A MORE RESILIENT ATTITUDE IN DEALING
WITH THE BARBARIANS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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